



HANDOUTS

Long-Term Care System Task Force

September 16, 2004

Iowa Coalition of Homes and Community Based Services For Seniors Presentation

DISCLAIMER

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Iowa Coalition of Home and Community Based Services for Seniors

The Iowa Coalition of Home and Community Based Services for Seniors is a strong advocate of strengthening the total continuum of long- term care options for seniors and their families.

We believe Iowa's seniors have the right to live as independently as possible, with dignity, in their own homes for as long as possible while receiving appropriate support services. These support services should be based on individual consumer choice and service accountability.

Such services include adult day care, in-home respite, home delivered meals, transportation, home repairs, mental health outreach, dependent adult abuse education and assessments, assessment and intervention, case management, and many others. Our member agencies are often the local point of service for thousands of Iowa's most frail seniors.

Current System

From our viewpoint, the current home and community based system can serve as a strong starting platform for any system changes. Features that make it attractive include:

- (1) It is open to all seniors (60+)
- (2) Coordination of services is built around the AAAs- which means it is available in every county in Iowa and is well- established
- (3) Interdisciplinary teams (nurses, social workers, PTs, etc.) help develop care plan and monitor the person's services and care
- (4) Consumers have different choices with regarding services they may receive
- (5) Quality of care is generally good across the various level of care settings
- (6) Case management monies are combined with local funding (ie United Way)
- (7) Senior Living Program and Purchase of Service dollars really ensure flexibility

However, as with any system, there are areas that need improvement. These include;

- (1) More options for home and community services need to be offered-especially in rural areas
- (2) Entry into the system can be challenging, confusing, and is often at a time of crisis
- (3) There is very little marketing of the options that are available
- (4) There needs to be more support for caregivers
- (5) More consumer choice is needed
- (6) System is missing many vulnerable populations- those with mental health issues, substance abuse problems, people in abusive situations, minorities
- (7) Turnover for direct care staff such as home health aides is too high
- (8) System is too reliant on Medicaid dollars- other methods to pay for services need to be explored

Current Initiatives that HCBS Providers are Involved with to Start the Change Process

- (1) Seamless Grant
- (2) Affordable Assisted Living- set up as a partnership among several community providers
- (3) Service Coordination- service workers that work directly in senior housing sites
- (4) Elder Abuse Initiative
- (5) Caregiver Support Programs

The Future: Suggestions

- (1) The current system should be used as the foundation upon which to build.
- (2) A key component of any system change would be the development and use of a universal assessment tool. This should be administered by a well trained professional (social workers and nurses). Services could then be coordinated through the AAA network that exists in all 99 counties
- (3) Fast-track eligibility needs to be established for accessing HCBS under waiver
- (4) Many states have realized that one piece that facilitates rebalancing is a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for all long-term care providers
- (5) The Coalition supports the long term incorporation of Case Management as an Elderly Waiver reimbursed service
- (6) An easier way for families to access the system must be developed
- (7) More support needs to be given to family caregivers
- (8) Seniors need to know that there are options available before they can use them. A strong marketing and promotion plan needs to be developed. In addition, some of the materials need to be marketed to minorities.
- (9) Explore revenue increases to help fund long term care

The Coalition encourages the Long- Term Care System Task Force to access the expertise that exists among Home and Community Based Providers as you develop plans for the future of our long- term care system.